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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT

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INFORMATION REPORT

CD NO.

COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 18 August 1949

SUBJECT Meeting of Soviet Political Officers

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1. On 7 August a conference was held at Karlshorst attended by Soviet political officers from all parts of the Russian Zone. Evidence was presented of widespread dissatisfaction and violations of discipline among Soviet occupation personnel in Germany. The number of offenders arrested is high: in Saxony alone, during the first seven months of 1949, the NGB Opergruppa has recorded 217 arrests for major breaches of discipline. These included 91 officers and 126 enlisted men and civilians; and 74 of those arrested were members of the Communist Party. Therefore the political officers were warned that they must not be complacent, as there is still much room for improvement in their work.
2. It was announced that an order has been issued by Moscow aimed at the establishment of better control and discipline among Soviet personnel serving abroad. The political officers were called upon to help the Soviet command in Germany to strengthen discipline, to inculcate Soviet citizens with a sense of the duty which they owe their government, and to intensify Bolshevik activities and preparedness for battle. By way of interpreting "preparedness for battle", it was stated that the USSR is preparing itself for all eventualities by the following measures:
 - a. All the principal cities of the Soviet Union and all Soviet airfields are at all times protected by powerful anti-aircraft batteries at war-time strength and alertness.
 - b. Artillery officers who were placed in the reserve after the war with Germany are recalled for active duty to serve as the cadre for new units.
 - c. Officers redeployed upon conclusion of the war are assigned as instructors to newly commissioned officers.
 - d. Army political officers (politrabotniki) discharged after the war are recalled to active duty.
3. The conferees were informed concerning the pending transfer of administrative powers from the GMA to German authorities. The transfer is to take place as soon as the new government is formed in western Germany, and the Germans are to be given the same powers in the East as are granted in the West. This will lead to the following results:

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- a. A change in the organization, authority, and official designation of the SVA.
- b. A change in the duties of the political department of the SVA. The content of these changes will be the subject of another conference.
- c. Further reduction of SVA personnel.
- d. Elimination of German employees from the Soviet army of occupation in order to prevent German infiltration in all phases of the Soviet occupation.
- e. The strengthening of the German paramilitary police, by supplying it with tanks and artillery.**
- f. The strengthening of the "protective ring" around Berlin.

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